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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 005516

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/31/2013

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SUBJECT: IRAQI MINISTERS: TURKISH OFFICIALS COMPLAIN THERE SHOULD BE MORE TURKMEN MINISTERS, AMB. LOGOGLU EXPRESSES CONCERN ABOUT FM ZEBARI

Classified by Ambassador Eric Edelman. Reasons 1.5 B and D. ACTION REQUEST at para 1.

11. (C) In separate conversations with the Ambassador and DCM Sept. 1 and August 30 respectively, MFA Deputy Undersecretary Ali Tuygan and MFA Acting Director General Safak Gokturk said Turkey was disappointed that the Iraqi Governing Council had appointed only one Turkmen minister. Turkish Ambassador to the US Farouk Logoglu (now in Ankara) had earlier told the Ambassador on August 30 that Turkey had reservations about the appointment of KDP official Hoshiyar Zebari as Foreign Minister. Ambassador noted that we had not seen a definitive list but that Kurdish participation ought to be welcomed as an indication of Kurdish commitment to a unified Iraq. ACTION REQUEST: Post recommends that we urge Zebari to make an early trip to Ankara so that he and the Turks can establish a relationship based on his new post asap. The Ambassador passed on the Turkish comments to CPA Chief of Staff Pat Kennedy by phone.

12. (C) DCM followed up his conversation with Gokturk in a meeting on Sept. 2. He assured Gokturk that Turkey's concerns had been forwarded to Baghdad and Washington, that Turkey's views on the weight of the Turkmen are well-known and that the US has tried to ensure Turkmen are included in the mix of every Iraqi body. There is a balance, the DCM noted, urging the Turks to keep their eyes on the overall functioning of the institutions and on the fact that what matters is that the institutions represent all Iraqis. Gokturk replied that no group in Iraq should be made to feel alienated, but that the Turkmen did feel alienated now. Turkey, he said, saw the appointment of only one Turkmen minister as a repetition of the same mistake made when the Governing Council was established with only one Turkmen rep. He added that the Science and Technology Ministry that the Turkmen minister will hold is only of secondary importance. It was, he said, vital for the Iraqi Turkmen to feel they were "A-list players." Turkey, for its part, felt like it continued to offer advice to the US, but its advice on this matter was never acted upon. The DCM suggested that for there to be more Turkmen involved in Iraqi institutions, the Turkmen in Iraq must do a better job of making themselves available and relevant.

13. (U) Baghdad minimize considered.
EDELMAN